

Docket No. 217 – Development and Management Plan Inspection

Northeast Utilities Service Company Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a 345-kV electric transmission line and reconstruction of an existing 115-kV electric transmission line between Connecticut Light and Power Company's Plumtree Substation in Bethel, through the towns of Redding, Weston, and Wilton, and to the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Date: September 20 and 22, 2006

Inspector: David Stowe, Diana Walden, Susan Infalt

Location: Overhead Line (Composite 345kV and 115kV Gallows Hill to Archers Lane,
345kV H-Frame Hoyts Hill to Gallows Hill, and Norwalk Section)

Storm/

Rain Event: No recent precipitation data was available from NOAA at the time of inspection. Reporting appears to have been interrupted and incomplete for the month of September

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways Composite	<p>- The Composite ROW work is mainly accessible from Gallows Hill Rd and an access road passing through the Archers Lane station 9/20/06.</p> <p>-Restoration work has begun on the three wetland crossings along the access road within the Archers Lane ROW. Stone and fabric have been removed but swamp mats temporarily remain at the first and second crossing. 9/22/06.</p> <p>- The wood chip pile has been raked out to a more appropriate depth in the area between structures #43-44 and near #42. Wood chips have been spread along the ROW in previous work areas. 9/22/06.</p> <p>- Erosion on the access road has caused stone to spill over the silt fence</p>	<p>-Remove swamp mats at when restoration work is nearing completion. 9/20/06.</p> <p>-Some chips remain off ROW due to the potential damage that could be caused removing them. 9/22/06.</p> <p>-This is adjacent to the 2nd wetland crossing and will continue to be restored. 9/22/06.</p>	<p>-As part of the restoration work, all areas have been re-graded to original conditions.</p> <p>- Restoration efforts noted. Wood chip pile was spread within the ROW</p> <p>- Restoration is underway</p>

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345kV H-Frame	further down-gradient. 8/17-9/22/06. Water bars were being constructed to divert flow and reduce erosion. 9/22/06.		
	- All wetlands in this section are undergoing restoration. Stone and fabric were removed from the crossings. Timber mats are here temporarily. 9/22/06	- Continue restoration and replace silt fence with haybales. 9/22/06	-Restoration is underway
Norwalk Section	- Work areas are accessed from various roadways. Restoration is widespread in this section. Most sections here have mats in place. 9/20/06.	- If muddy conditions re-occur, place more wood chips or provide stormwater diversion. 9/20/06.	-Needs attention
	- Erosion continues along the access road near structure #31 but haybales seem to be containing sediment. 7/19-9/20/06	-Continue to monitor and keep stone out of any resource areas. Haybales currently contain the sediment. 7/26-9/20/06.	-NA
	- Minor sediment tracking was noted in Kent Road from the ROW access to the north. 8/30-9/20/06.	- Continue to maintain this entrance and sweep street when necessary. Add more clean stone if needed 7/19-9/20/06.	- Needs attention
	-Mats remain in good condition over the wetlands in this section. 9/20/06.	- None at this time. 9/20/06.	-Needs attention
	-Several wetlands remain matted to the south of Kent Rd. Haybales placed at the wash out areas are deteriorating. 9/20/06.	- Maintain erosion controls at wash out areas until this area is stabilized. 9/20/06.	
	-Vehicles have tracked through the restored area adjacent to the bike path	- Contractors should restore this area as part of the final restoration efforts. 9/7-9/20/06.	

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	between Broad Street and the Norwalk Substation. 9/7-9/20/06.		
Line Construction Composite	- Line work is complete within the Archers Lane and Gallows Hill ROW sections. Restoration activities continue in this section. 9/20/06.	- None at this time. 9/20/06.	-N/A
345kV H-Frame	- Line work is complete within the Bethel Reservoir, Chestnut Ridge, John Todd Way, and Costa Lane ROW sections. Restoration efforts continue. 9/20/06.	- Continue restoration in previously disturbed areas and that materials are not forgotten in place. 9/20/06	- Restoration efforts noted.
Line Construction continued	-Hay mulch and seed has been applied to the disturbed areas along the ROW from pole #21 to pole #11 near Bethel Reservoir. 9/13-9/20/06. Restored areas around pole #15, 17, and 21 are beginning to re-vegetate. The crossing between pole #10 and 11 has been re-graded, seeded, and mulched. 9/20/06.	-None at this time. 9/13-9/20/06.	-Restoration efforts noted.
Norwalk Section	-Restoration efforts appear to be complete within the ROW off Chestnut Ridge Road with the exception of removing mats. 9/13-9/20/06 The area at pole #6 is beginning to re-vegetate. 9/20/06.	-None at this time. 9/20/06.	- Restoration efforts noted.
	-Wire pulling is essentially complete and all rider poles have been removed in this section. 9/13-9/20/06.	-None at this time. 9/20/06.	-NA
	- Crews were installing	-None at this time.	-NA

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
	<p>wire spacers at structure #11048. 9/20/06.</p> <p>All old foundations have been removed from the ROW at Broad Street, Kent Road, Perry Ave, and North Seir Hill Road. 9/20/06.</p> <p>-Grading was noted at structures #11064 and 66. Seeding and restoration has not occurred yet. 9/20/06</p>	<p>9/20/06.</p> <p>-Confirm that all concrete dumpsters have been removed now that foundation removal is complete. 9/20/06.</p> <p>- Seed and restore areas as soon as possible. Generally, fall seeding ends Oct. 15th 9/20/06</p>	<p>-NA</p> <p>-Needs seeding</p>
<p>Erosion and Sediment Controls</p> <p>Composite</p>	<p>- Stone and fabric were removed from all wetland crossings along the Archers Lane access road and the area is being restored. Water bars were installed to divert erosive run-off. Some additional stone remains around the edge of the crossings. 9/22/06</p> <p>- Wood chips had been blown into the uplands and wetland area at the third structure in from Gallows Hill Road. 2/22-9/22/06.</p> <p>- The area at structure #34 off Gallows Hill has been seeded and mulched, and is beginning to re-vegetate. 9/22/06.</p> <p>- The crossing in this area also needs to be removed. 9/20/06</p> <p>- Restoration efforts (seed and mulch) are complete along the ROW in the Bethel Reservoir</p>	<p>- Continue to restore the area and remove as much stone as possible. Some areas are grandfathered from original access road installation. Timber mats are in place temporarily. 9/22/06.</p> <p>- Wood chips on the ROW can remain at a depth of 3". Deeper piles should be spread out, including areas immediately off the ROW. 4/6-9/22/06.</p> <p>- Continue restoration in previously disturbed areas and ensure that materials are not forgotten in place 9/20/06.</p> <p>- Restore in a similar manner to the work at Archers Lane. 9/22/06</p> <p>-Continue to remove access roads and monitor. 9/20/06</p>	<p>-Restoration is underway</p> <p>-Still needs attention</p> <p>- Restoration efforts are noted</p> <p>- Needs attention before the end of work</p> <p>- Grass growth was noted in seeded areas.</p>
<p>345kV H-Frame</p> <p>Bethel Reservoir Section to Chestnut Ridge Rd.</p>			

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Costa Lane, Whortleberry, Lime Kiln and John Todd Way	and Chestnut Ridge Road Sections. Grass growth is noted. Mats still need to be removed. 9/20/06.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The restored area at structure #6 is beginning to re-vegetate. 9/20/06. -The area around structure #9 had re-vegetated, but a new area of disturbance remains upgradient of the pole 8/30-9/20/06. - The area adjacent to pole #10 has been restored but some tracking was noted in the restored area. 9/13-9/20/06. - Restoration efforts (seed and mulch) are nearing completion along the ROW off John Todd Way and Lime Kiln Road. 9/20/06. Restoration efforts have begun along the ROW off Costa Lane. 9/20/06. - The access road erosion near structure #31 was regraded but erosion has returned, despite the haybales. 7/19-9/20/06. -A private contractor was working in the newly restored ROW near pole #23 and stockpiling soil at the access drive off John Todd Way. 9/20/06. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None at this time. 9/20/06. -The exposed soil should be restored and vegetated. Although it does not appear that sediment is entering the road from this area, silt fence may be necessary. 8/30-9/20/06. -Contractors should repair this area as part of the final restoration efforts. 9/20/06. - Continue restoration in previously disturbed areas and ensure that materials are not forgotten in place. 9/20/06. - Keep all stone/sediment from entering resource areas and investigate alternative stabilization measures. 7/19-9/20/06. -This work is not project related. 9/20/06 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Grass growth was noted. -Needs attention. -Needs attention. -Grass growth was noted in some areas. -Needs evaluation -NA
Norwalk Section			
Broad Street, Perry Ave, and North Seir Hill Road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ROW off Perry Ave has been re-graded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -This area should be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Needs seeding

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Kent Rd. (North – new ROW section)	<p>but has not been seeded. 9/7-9/20/06.</p> <p>- The area near pole #11080 at the substation remains fairly bare of vegetation 8/17-9/20/06. The silt fence here was repaired at the time of the visit. 9/20/06</p>	<p>restored/seeded as soon as possible. Generally, the end of fall seeding is Oct 15th. 9/20/06.</p> <p>- Restore the adjacent area with vegetation to reduce potential run-off, even if it is temporarily. 6/7-9/20/06.</p>	- Needs seeding
	<p>- The stone access pad north of Kent Rd may still need some cleanup; there was minor sediment tracking in the road. 8/17-9/20/06.</p>	<p>- Continue to maintain and sweep the street when necessary. Improve pad if needed. 7/19-9/20/06.</p>	-N/A
Kent Rd. (South)	<p>- Silt fence remains along both banks of the stream and near the foundation at the pond in the Kent Rd north section. 7/19-9/20/06.</p>	<p>-Continue to monitor and maintain as needed. 9/20/06.</p>	-N/A
	<p>- Silt fence/haybales at structure #11057 are deteriorating and should be monitored. Some stone remains beyond the erosion controls and washout areas remain. 8/17-9/20/06.</p>	<p>-Continue to repair and reinforce controls. These areas will be difficult to control during heavy rain due to the drainage patterns. 7/12-9/20/06.</p>	-Needs some attention

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<p>Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation</p> <p>Composite</p> <p>345kV H-Frame</p>	<p>-The stone and geotextile fabric has been removed from the wetland crossings along the Archers Lane ROW and the road is being re-graded. Swamp mats temporarily remain at the first and second crossing. 9/22/06.</p> <p>- The restored wetland area at structure #6 is beginning to re-vegetate. 9/20/06.</p> <p>- Contratrors regraded and seeded the area adjacent to the wetland between structures #10-11 as part of the final restoration efforts. 9/20/06.</p>	<p>Silt fence will be removed and replaced with haybales in appropriate locations. Continue to remove remaining stone on the edges. 9/13-9/22/06.</p> <p>- None at this time. 9/20/06.</p> <p>- Continue to monitor until stabilized. 9/20/06.</p>	<p>-Restoration efforts are noted.</p> <p>- Vegetative growth was noted.</p> <p>- Restoration was noted.</p>
<p>State species of concern, threatened and endangered species</p>	<p>- The composite portion of overhead work includes state-listed turtle habitat area. 9/15-9/20/06.</p> <p>-An Eastern box turtle was noted crossing the access road near structure #7 in the Chestnut Ridge Rd section on 6/14/06.</p>	<p>- Continue daily walkthroughs prior to any work in the area. 4/6-9/20/06.</p> <p>- Perform walkthroughs in this new section as well. 6/14-9/20/06.</p>	<p>-N/A at this time</p> <p>-N/A</p>
<p>Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)</p> <p>Composite</p>	<p>- Adjacent homeowners near Gallows Hill mentioned damage to mountain laurel and other shrubs. 3/2-9/20/06.</p> <p>- A significant amount of chips were blown off the ROW into the upland and also along the wetland edge at the 3rd structure off Gallows Hill. These areas are off property. 2/22-9/20/06.</p> <p>- Deep piles of wood</p>	<p>-Replace shrubs where approved during these restoration efforts. 9/20/06.</p> <p>- Chips currently off ROW boundaries should be removed carefully to comply with the D&M plan. 2/22-9/20/06. Chips on ROW should be spread to a depth of 3". 4/6-9/20/06.</p>	<p>-Needs attention when feasible</p> <p>- Still needs attention CL&P is looking into this.</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
345kV H-Frame	<p>chips have been raked out in the areas beyond the limits of the ROW beyond Archers Lane. Chips were spread within the ROW to a more appropriate depth. 9/22/06.</p> <p>- Widespread restoration efforts were noted as work areas are seeded and mulched with hay. 9/13-9/20/06</p> <p>-Vegetative growth was returning in a number of areas. 9/20/06</p>	<p>-None at this time. 9/20/06.</p> <p>- None at this time. Continue to monitor and restore remaining areas 9/20/06.</p>	<p>- Efforts to reduce the wood chip piles were noted.</p> <p>-Grass growth was noted.</p>
Dewatering	<p>- No obvious dewatering efforts were noted at the time of inspection. 9/20/06.</p>	<p>- Release water to the ground only in well vegetated areas if it will not reach any resource areas. (Make sure to check downgradient for these areas) Otherwise use a filter bag or adequate containment. 3/9-9/20/06.</p>	<p>-N/A at this time</p>
Blasting	<p>-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 9/20/06.</p>	<p>-None at this time. 9/20/06.</p>	<p>-N/A</p>
Spills and Material Storage	<p>-No spills or drips were noted along the route this week. 9/20/06.</p> <p>- In general, equipment should be parked over 100 ft from resource areas or as far as feasible. 9/20/06</p>	<p>- Continue to keep all vehicles maintained well (i.e. no apparent fluid leaks) if they will be used or stored on site</p> <p>- Keep adequately size fuel kits for worst-case scenarios.</p> <p>- Report spills immediately, even if they are being controlled.</p> <p>- Avoid refueling in the areas near the wetlands. Use proper storage for all materials.</p>	<p>-NA</p>
Additional Observations			

**Next likely scheduled
inspection:**

Friday September 29, 2006

I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any false statements made in this document or its attachments may be punishable as a criminal offense in accordance with Section 22a-6 under Section 53a-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Inspector's Signature:

Diana Walden, David Stowe, BSC Group



(Composite Section): Photo on the left shows the third wetland crossing in the ROW near Archers Lane. Stone and fabric have been removed from the ROW and the wetland crossing was restored. Photo on the right shows a 2nd area of this crossing being restored. 9/22/06.



Photo on the left shows the area near structures #43-44 where the large pile of wood chips has been raked out. Wood chips have been spread within the ROW to a more appropriate depth. Photo on the right shows a restored area off the ROW near Archers Lane where a new water bar is directing flow. 9/22/06.



Photo on the left shows the second wetland crossing in the ROW near Archers Lane. Photo on the right shows the first wetland crossing. Stone and fabric have been removed from both crossings but swamp mats remain temporarily. 9/22/06.



(345kV H-Frame) Photo on the left shows the restored area at structure #15 near Bethel Reservoir. Photo on the right shows the restored area at the wetland crossing between structures #10 and #11. Most areas along the Bethel Reservoir Section of ROW are re-vegetating. 9/20/06.



**Photo on the left shows a view of the restored area near structure #6 off Chestnut Ridge Road.
Photo on the right shows a restored area in the ROW off John Todd Way. 9/20/06.**



**Both photos show non-project related work performed by a private contractor. Photo on the left shows soil stockpiled along the edge of the driveway off John Todd Way. Photo on the right shows the contractor operating machinery in the recently restored area near structure #23.
9/20/06.**



Photo on the left shows restoration activities continuing in the ROW off Costa Lane. (Norwalk Section): Photo on the right. shows crews installing wire spacers at structure #10048. 9/20/06.



Photo on the left shows on the right. Shows the erosion controls deteriorating along the access road in the ROW off Kent Road (south). Photo on the right shows the newly graded area at structure #11064 in the ROW off North Seir Hill Road. This area still remains to be seeded 9/20/06.